

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1 - 37 (cancelled).

Claim 38 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], wherein the at least one thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of arabic gums and their derivatives, lambda carrageenan, and pullulan gums and their derivatives, ~~rhamsan gums and their derivatives, and wellan gums and their derivatives.~~

Claim 39 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], wherein the concentration of the at least one thickening agent is between 2% and 80% by weight, relative to the final weight of the preparation.

Claim 40 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], ~~the encapsulating mass comprising a blend of two or more thickening agents~~ wherein the thickening agent comprises a combination of two or more thickening agents.

Claim 41 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], wherein the dissolution medium is a hydroalcoholic medium, and wherein the proportion of the alcohol for thickening agent dissolution in the hydro alcoholic medium varies from 10% to 90% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dissolution medium.

Claim 42 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], the dissolution medium further comprising at least one sodium or potassium salt to increase solubilization of the at least one thickening agent.

Claim 43 (previously presented). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 42, wherein the proportion of the sodium or potassium salt varies from 0 to 50% by weight, relative to the final weight of the preparation.

Claim 44 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], ~~the dissolution medium having an aqueous phase~~ wherein the pH of the aqueous phase of the thickening agent dissolution medium ~~varies~~ has a pH varying from 2 to 12.

Claim 45 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], wherein the pH of the dissolution medium is controlled with a ~~buffered solution~~ buffered solutions selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid/sodium chloride, hydrochloric acid/potassium phthalate, hydrochloric acid/glycine, citric acid/citrates, citric acid/sodium hydroxide, lactic acid/lactate, monosodium phosphate/disodium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate/dipotassium phosphate, bicarbonate/carbonate, and potassium diphthalate/hydrochloric acid.

Claim 46 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], ~~the encapsulating mass further comprising~~ wherein the additives comprise at least one polyol plasticizer selected from the group consisting of glycerol, sorbitol, maltodextrins, dextrose, manitol, xylitol, lactitol, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene glycol 400 to 6000, natural and semi synthetic glycerides, and their derivatives.

Claim 47 (previously presented). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 46, wherein the proportion of the at least one polyol plasticizer varies from 0 to 50% by weight, relative to the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 48 (currently amended) A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], ~~the encapsulating mass further comprising~~ wherein the additives comprise at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of ionic surfactants, non ionic surfactants, and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 49 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 48, wherein the concentration of surfactant content of the ~~encapsulating mass~~ varies from 0 to 20% by weight, relative to the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 50 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 ~~[[37]]~~, ~~the encapsulating mass further comprising~~ wherein the additives comprise at least one disintegrating agent, associated or not with surfactants, the at least one disintegrating agent being a soluble starch selected from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, rice starch, manioc starch and wheat starch derivatives, the derivatives having been or not chemically or/and physically modified.

Claim 51 (previously presented). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 50, wherein the at least one disintegrating agent comprises between 0 and 50% by weight, relative to the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 52 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 ~~[[37]]~~, wherein the concentration of solid material in the encapsulating mass is between 10% and 80% by weight, relative to the final weight of the composition.

Claim 53 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 ~~[[37]]~~, wherein the film complexing agent solution is a saline solution of a mineral or organic acid, a hydroalcoholic solution, or a mixture of a saline solution of a mineral or organic acid and a hydroalcoholic solution.

Claim 54 (previously presented). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing solution being a hydroalcoholic solution, wherein the hydroalcoholic complexing solution contains ethanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, or butanol.

Claim 55 (previously presented) A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a hydroalcoholic solution,

wherein the hydroalcoholic solution contains between 10% and 90% of alcohol by weight, relative to the final volume of the hydroalcoholic complexing solution.

Claim 56 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a saline solution, wherein the saline complexing solution includes at least one ion selected from the group consisting of calcium ion, barium ion, titanium ions, zinc ion, aluminum ions, sulfur ions, and siliceous ions salt of mineral and organic acid, and hydroxides.

Claim 57 (previously presented). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a saline solution, wherein the concentration of salt in the saline complexing solution ranges from 1% to the saturation of the solution.

Claim 58 (currently amended) A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], wherein the ungelled film is in contacted with the complexing solution by spraying complexing solution onto the ungelled film, dipping the ungelled film into the complexing solution, or both.

Claim 59 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], ~~wherein the ungelled film is contacted with the complexing solution for between 10 seconds and 10 minutes~~ wherein the gelatinization process in contact with the complexing solution agent varies between 10 seconds and 10 minutes.

Claim 60 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], further comprising drying the gelled film in an air stream at a temperature between -10°C and +70°C.

Claim 61 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], further comprising sealing the gelled film under pressure and at a temperature between 50°C and 100°C.

Claim 62 (currently amended). A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 63 [[37]], further comprising encapsulating an aqueous and/or oily solution with the gelled film.

Claim 63 (new). A process for manufacturing a gelatinized film for soft capsules, the process comprising:

- a) dissolving a thickening agent under mixing and cold conditions, the thickening agent having an instant gelatinizing property upon contact with complexing agent solutions, in aqueous or hydroalcoholic medium buffered or not, to form a viscous mass;
- b) solubilizing additives under mixing and cold or hot conditions in the viscous mass;
- c) vacuum degassing the viscous mass to eliminate the air from the viscous mass;
- d) transferring the viscous mass to a film formation system at a temperature under 50 °C;
- e) forming a film from the viscous mass on drum systems at a temperature of about 10-15 °C to form a viscous film;
- f) instantaneously gelatinizing the viscous film by spraying or dipping, or both, in a complexing agent solution, to form a gelatinized film; and
- g) drying the gelatinized film through an air stream having a temperature comprised between -10 °C to 70 °C.